

# News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**DATE:** September 27, 2007

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## **Public Information Meeting**

### **DES to Provide Update on Invasive Alga in the Connecticut River**

*Meeting in Pittsburg on October 4 will discuss Alga known as "Didymo" or "Rock Snot," outline preventative measures and identification methods with live samples*

Concord, NH - The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services will host a public information meeting on **October 4** in Pittsburg on the invasive alga "Didymosphenia geminata," also known as "rock snot" or "didymo," that has been found along the northern reaches of the Connecticut River as well as in the White River near Bethel, Vermont. The meeting will be held at **6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Pittsburg Fire Station, 1684 North Main Street (U.S. Route 3).**

The meeting will provide up-to-date information on the areas of the Connecticut River known to have didymo present. There will be discussion of what steps can be taken to prevent the spread of didymo, as well as actual samples of the algae available for attendees to familiarize themselves with for identification purposes.

DES wants to stress that the following precautions must be adhered to by all recreationalists, such as anglers and paddlers, to help stop the spread of Didymo to other streams and rivers:

*CHECK* - Remove all visible clumps of algae and plant material from fishing gear, waders, clothing, water shoes and sandals, canoes and kayaks, *and anything else* that has been in the water.

*CLEAN* - Soak and scrub all items for at least ten minutes in *very hot water* with lots of soap. Felt-soled waders need 30 minutes!!

*DRY* - Whenever possible, dry items thoroughly for at least *48 hours* before using them in another waterbody.

For more information on didymo, please contact: The DES Exotic Species Program at 271-2248 or more information on this diatom can be found online at:

<http://des.nh.gov/wmb/exoticspecies/didymo/index.html>

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